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Part IV. Trigonometry and Logarithms (160 pages).

These volumes are admirably adapted to meet the needs of the persons to whom they are addressed. The treatment throughout is simple and concise; demonstrations are largely avoided; and the whole work abounds in interesting practical exercises drawn from a large variety of sources. These exercises serve to make the books of great value to all teachers of elementary mathematics as a source of fresh and instructive problems.

W. C. BRENKE.

Computing Tables and Mathematical Formulas, arranged for the use of high schools and colleges. By E. H. BARKER. Ginn and Company, Boston, 1913. Narrow 12 mo, semi-flexible cloth, v+88 pages. $0.75.

This admirable little book of tables, 4 inches by 7 inches, contains a wealth of information which furnishes material for many problems of ordinary computation besides being very convenient for problems involving logarithms. Fifteen tables present the ordinary trigonometric functions and logarithms as well as powers (squares and cubes), roots, circumferences, areas, for the numbers from 1 to 1,000, trigonometric formulas, volumes of spheres (1 to 100 in diameter), standard gauges, decimal equivalents of 32ds and 64ths, specific gravities, weight of a cubic foot of various materials, and convenient equivalents. Any high school pupil, and even the ordinary college student, would profit by having such a book placed in his hands. The objection to the work from this point of view, however, is the price. Compare this book of 88 pages at 75 cents with the *Vierstellige Tafeln* by Schubert-Haussner at 22 cents. The German work is in two colors and consists of 175 pages, being volume 81 of the well-known *Sammlung Göschen*, G. J. Göschen'sche Verlagshandlung, Berlin W. 10, Genthiner-Strasse 38. Under the new tariff law teachers will be able to import such works free of duty for their students and until similar tables are published at a more moderate price in this country the German tables are to be preferred. Aside from the price, even, it is highly desirable that our high school students should occasionally see and handle foreign books.

L. C. KARPINSKI.

An Introduction to Mathematics. By A. N. WHITEHEAD. Henry Holt and Co., New York, 1911. 256 pages. $0.75.

Working mathematicians have usually not taken the time and trouble to render their point of view, the nature of their subjects of interest, and their methods intelligible to a layman. This state of things has no doubt been brought about by a feeling widely prevalent that the layman, even though intelligent, is not able to understand these things without first passing through a considerable course of training. So far as results and details of work are concerned this feeling is certainly justified.

But it is at least open to question whether the really fundamental ideas, stripped of all technicality in verbiage and results, are not after all of such simple character as to be capable of presentation to any intelligent reader who may be interested in knowing what they are and how they are related to life and thought.

If such a presentation could be made it would obviously be of no little advantage to the science of mathematics. Many of us must have felt our extreme isolation from our fellow-workers in other fields; and we would welcome anything which would properly serve to narrow the gap between us. One great means of scientific progress is in the interconnections and interrelations between separated domains of thought.

Again, all of us have noticed how often the study of mathematics in the college (and even in the high school) begins with disappointment. The ideas and processes to which the student is early introduced do not command his interest. May it not be true that we give too much attention to the trivialities of computation and too little to the fundamental principles, always interesting, on which the science is built?

It appears, then, that both the student and the general reader might find it of great value to have at hand a simple and straightforward, yet accurate, discussion of the fundamental ideas of the mathematical sciences. This is what the author of the little volume at present under review has given us in a lucid and interesting exposition. It augurs well for a dissemination of interest in mathematical questions when men of such ability as Dr. Whitehead are willing to take the time to induct others into a clear apprehension of the elementary and fundamental notions of the science.

The object of this book is not to teach mathematics, but to enable students from the very beginning of their course to know what the science is about, and why it is necessarily the foundation of exact thought as applied to natural phenomena. There is no technical mathematical detail to embarrass the non-mathematical reader; and yet even the student of mathematics will find in it many illuminating statements. The book deserves a wide circulation.

It can be recommended unhesitatingly to any layman who desires to know the simple conceptions which lie at the basis of modern mathematics and to ascertain how they have grown up during the progress of thought.

A general idea of the contents of the book may be gained from the following list of chapter headings: the abstract nature of mathematics, variables, methods of application, dynamics, the symbolism of mathematics, generalizations of number, imaginary numbers, coördinate geometry, conic sections, functions, periodicity in nature, trigonometry, series, the differential calculus, geometry, quantity.

R. D. Carmichael.